

Palm Around Your Neck: No pocket or purse in which to stow your Palm/Pilot, no belt to clip it to? Check out Force Technology's **Bond Latch**, which clips to the bottom of your Palm III/IIIx/V/VII and lets you wear it around your neck. (The Palm V version uses hooks that slide inside the stylus silos.) **\$29.95, Force Technology, www.force.com.**

It's called **FastPhrase**, and it's designed to speed up data entry by letting you input entire words or phrases, rather than individual characters. When you enter the first letter or two of a word, the FastPhrase box pops up with the most likely choices. Tap the correct word, then move on to the next one. We'll take a hands-on look at FastPhrase and report our findings in a future issue. **\$19.95, Asyscs, www.asyscs.com**

So, you've decided to buy the latest and greatest Palm/Pilot, but don't know where to find the best price. Check out **20-20 Consumer** (formerly the PDApage), where you'll find up-to-the-minute prices from—and links to—a variety of online merchants. The service also lists shipping charges, so there won't be any surprises when it comes time to hand over your credit card number. Shopping for a digital camera, notebook PC or MP3 audio player? 20-20 Consumer lists prices for those as well. **Free, 20-20 Consumer, www.20-20consumer.com.**

Not satisfied with the Palm's standard Address List applet? Check out **TealPhone 1.62**, which features a quick-search index bar, enhanced sorting options, contact-oriented search options, and a one-screen integrated display. **\$17.95, TealPoint Software, www.tealpoint.com.**

QuickTip: Here's an economical and effective way to protect your Palm's Graffiti area from scratches: Buy a roll of Scotch 811 Magic Tape, and cut a piece to fit the input area. Works like a charm!

Should You Overclock Your Palm?

By Rick Broida

A popular pastime among speed-hungry PC users, overclocking is the technique of forcing a processor to run at a faster-than-rated speed. Very often, the result is a significant boost in performance. It can also lead to system malfunctions such as lock-ups and fried processors.

Risks aside, Palm/Pilot users are getting in on the overclocking act, thanks to new utilities that magically accelerate the CPU. Jean-Paul Gavini's AfterBurner 2.0 and IS/Complete's Tornado 1.0 promise to boost your Palm/Pilot's speed by up to 175% and 200%, respectively.

The good news is that they work, though to varying degrees depending on the Palm/Pilot model. The bad news is that they can shorten battery life, corrupt data and perhaps even damage the Palm itself.

Because It's There Given these potential tragedies, one must ask the obvious question: why bother? It takes no more than a second or two to load most applications, so why court disaster just to shave off a few milliseconds?

The most obvious answer is that some folks just love to tinker. But there are practical reasons as well, such as speeding up database searches. If you've got a lot of data, it can take more than a few seconds to complete a search using the Find function. Simply speaking, where computers are concerned, faster is always better—and the Palm is a pocket-size computer.

AfterBurner and Tornado are very similar products (except for price: AfterBurner is freeware, while Tornado costs \$10). Both allow you to overclock or "underclock" your Palm (the latter actually slows down the CPU, which can extend battery life), and both permit selective overclocking. That means you can set a different processor clock speed for each application, rather than implementing global changes.

The Techies Speak Based on messages we've seen posted to the various Palm-related Internet newsgroups, user response to these products has been mixed. Some users are enjoying faster operation with no adverse effects, while others have experienced everything from screen glitches to IR and HotSync difficulties.

Palm Computing, for its part, is vehemently opposed to overclocking. "Using these programs is like playing with fire," says Frank Canova, Palm's director of future product engineering. "You should not use [them] unless you're willing to lose your data."

Canova adds that the processor wasn't designed to run any faster than 16Mhz, and that data corruption is just one possible result. "Changing the CPU speed outside what is specified for the DragonBall...is dangerous and should not be tried by our customers."

Have you had an experience, good or bad, with overclocking? Tell us about it! Write to comments@tapmagazine.com and share your insights.



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BigClock 2.2 **Freeware, Jens Rupp, www.gacel.de/palmpilot.htm**

Have you ever found yourself in need of a stopwatch? Or a countdown timer? Maybe you'd just like your Palm V to serve some practical purpose while it's sitting in its cradle, like displaying the time and date. Jens Rupp's BigClock 2.2 does it all, and for a price that's hard to beat.

As its name suggests, BigClock is, well, a big clock. The main screen displays the time and date in huge numbers that are visible from a good dozen feet away. Keep this 36K applet running while your Palm V is charging, and you've got a handy clock/calendar on your desk.

Need to know the time in Paris? Tap the "World" button at the bottom of the screen, and BigClock shows you the hour in up to four other time zones (you supply the names of the places and the correct times; BigClock keeps track of them). The "Timer"

button reveals a stopwatch that can count up or down, while "Alarm" lets you set up to four separate alarms—each with one of four different chimes.

BigClock is ridiculously simple to use—alarms and countdowns are set just by tapping on the oversize numbers. The software is also highly customizable; you can modify the layout of each screen, and even create your own alarm sounds based on frequency, time and amplitude. One nice aspect of the alarm feature is that the chime will keep going off until you tap the screen (unlike the Palm/Pilot's appointment alarms, which terminate after three sets of beeps). It even has support for Tech Center Labs' TaleLight.

While we wouldn't classify BigClock an indispensable application, it's great at what it does. And the price is right: Rupp has generously designated the tool freeware. —Rick Broida

New Software This Week

Expense Plus • Track expenses on your Palm and generate reports on your PC. *Walletware, www.walletware.com*

QuickSheet 4.0 • New version of the popular Excel-compatible spreadsheet program. *Cutting Edge Software, www.cesinc.com*



ultraCaddie 1.2 • Golf scorecard with loads of extra "caddy-like" features. *3Wedge LLC, www.3wedge.com*

UltraSoft Money • Record transactions on your Palm, then synchronize them with Microsoft Money 99 on your PC. *UltraSoft, www.ultrasoft.com*

Zip-4 • Palm VII query app that retrieves the nine-digit Zip code for any address. *O'Reilly & Associates, www.oreilly.com*